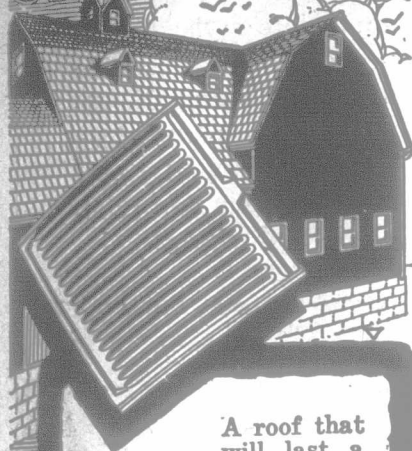


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also come to be looked upon, somehow, as the hall-mark of poor housekeeping. But he is not brought up in horse-manure or other dirt as is the house-fly, and he does not go, as does the house-fly, straight from a pile of filth that adheres to hairy legs to our food supplies, over which to crawl and preen with great content.

Yes, straight from the uncovered manure heap or privy vault the house-fly may come, or—even worse—straight from the carelessly deposited sputum of the consumptive or excreta of the typhoid patient. He neither knows nor cares that dirt and disease germs cling to his legs, and great is his satisfaction if he can find a juicy roast of meat or sugary pie over which to make an itinerary, finding a free-lunch counter at every step. If the pantry is barred and sealed to his aerial way he is still quite philosophic—he is contented with the next best thing; and that, perhaps, is the baby's eyes as he lies sleeping in the cradle, or little Mary's molasses-covered "piece" which she has laid down for a moment but intends to resume eating as soon as she has transacted some very important operation of play.

Thus it is that the house-fly becomes one of the most active agents in carrying and distributing disease—in causing epidemics. Even were that not so war to the death should be waged upon him for his filthiness. Always he is filthy, and often he may be a positive danger signal.

Where Flies Come From.

It is not necessary to state, perhaps, that the eggs of the fly are laid preferably in horse-dung; failing that, in any other damp and dirty material that can be found. The dirt in the cracks of a piggery will do for a hatching-bed, a bit of decaying vegetable matter in a cellar, a pile of rotting straw, an old mattress thrown on a dump,—anything at all that is muggy, and smelly, and "horrid." Within a few days the eggs hatch into tiny, white wriggling maggots. In a few days more the maggots become still and rigid, each in a hard little pupa-case of its own; but in a surprisingly short time the changes in the pupa form are completed, the end of the pupa-case is opened and the full-grown fly emerges all ready for action.

The first eggs are laid by the few big buzzing females that have escaped the winter, snugly hibernating in some crack or hole. But the new crop of females hasten to lay more eggs—on the dung-pile, of course, if the manure hasn't been hauled to the field or properly covered up; otherwise in the first conveniently dirty spot. Again and again during the summer the process is repeated, and so the flies multiply with amazing rapidity until, by "preserving-time,"—but you know how they are at preserving-time. Incidentally this happens to be typhoid-time, *par excellence*, also you can deduct the inference for yourself.

How to Fight Flies.

Swatting the flies helps a little to rid the house of the pest. So does fly-poison, although it is a disagreeable method, and dangerous if there are children about who may drink the sweetened water. Better is sticky fly paper. If the flies can get into the pantry place some tanglefoot there, near to the food that has the most odor but which should be screened by a wire-netting cover. Put some more near the window in the kitchen or elsewhere; a few particles of cheese distributed over the paper will help to bait the flies. Another recommendation is to darken a room, put a few drops of carbolic acid on a hot shovel, and swing the screen door open as the flies "flee" to it. (We have not tried this personally).

Screen doors and windows help to keep flies out. Often a room may be cleared of any that have entered by drawing down the window-shades leaving but one bright—but not too bright—opening; flies are attracted by light, but seem to be repelled by very bright sunshine. In a room in which smells are conspicuous by their absence—wide open, unscreened windows may often be depended upon to let flies escape, and the room will be fairly clear of them until the "weather" outside begins to be cold in autumn, when the screens will have to be requisitioned.

In short, in fighting the pest indoors it should always be remembered that the fly has but one ambition in life—to head towards the strongest smell that is pleasant to him. He loves the smell of meat. He loves the smell of cheese.

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